



Immanuel Messenger

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October 2011

A Word from the Pastor

Reformation Sunday

October 30, 2011



Distinguished guest preacher: Professor David S. Yeago
Michael C. Peeler Professor of Systematic Theology
The Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary
Columbia, South Carolina

Dr. David Yeago has preached here at Immanuel before, back in the year 2000. For me, he is the pride and joy of Lutheran theologians of my generation. I still smile to recall a long ago conversation with a young patristic scholar. When I told her that I knew her fellow Yale graduate David Yeago, she laughed and said that the first time she met him, she felt as if she were meeting Atlas, “holding up on his shoulders the whole theological world.” Such is the impression Dr. Yeago makes on many people, though he himself is humble and as far as I can tell does not even sense the high regard in which he is held.

Dr. Yeago has published in a variety of journals including *Pro Ecclesia*, *Modern Theology*, *The St. Vladimir's Theological Quarterly*, *Lutheran Forum*, and *Nova et Vetera*. His articles have addressed a wide range of issues, including ecumenism, Biblical hermeneutics, and the theology of Martin Luther. He has participated as member or consultant in ecumenical dialogues with the Moravian Church, the Orthodox Church, and the Roman Catholic Church.

At the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, in addition to the introductory theology course, Dr. Yeago teaches courses on the theology of the Christian life, early Christian biblical exegesis and theology, and the theology of Martin Luther. His current research is focused on the theological interpretation of Scripture and the role of Scripture in Christian formation.

David is a southern gentleman, born and raised in Virginia. He is a phenomenon, really. Maybe you have encountered such people in your own profession. I remember Carol and me visiting with him once, sitting around in the living room watching a Sherlock Holmes mystery on t.v. Theology books were piled up by his chair, and as the evening wore on, he browsed through the books, one after another. German, Greek, Latin, English -- he is comfortable in them all. So, he smoked his pipe, read his books, all the while carrying on his witty conversation about the movie and life. He is a learned, gentle, and kind man. Besides that, he is the godfather for our son Sam. Carol and I are awfully glad to know him and proud that he will be preaching here at Immanuel this Reformation Sunday, October 30. Please join us if at all possible.

In Christ,



Pastor Gregory P. Fryer

Suppertime as a Child

By Maria Van Der Merwe

[Introduction by Pastor Fryer: Hurricane Irene brought two small, but moving worship services that day, Sunday, August 28th. Church Council urged that we cancel the liturgies that day, and we did. I feel it was the right thing to do, since the subways were down and we did not want to risk people being hit by dangerous flying debris swirling around in hurricane winds. On the other hand, Sexton Chris Schulze and I were determined that we would hold worship at the regular times that day, even if it was just the two of us, unless it would be just plain foolish to do so. But the winds turned out not to be so bad, and so we rang the bells at 11 a.m. and again at 6:30 p.m. and held worship as usual. Some people might not have gotten the word that the services were canceled, so we wanted to be ready for them. Anyway, it was Sunday, and we wanted to worship if at all possible. We had five people at 11 a.m. and six people at 6:30 p.m.]

One of the nice things about the 11 a.m. liturgy is that Maria Van Der Merwe urged that we sing a hymn. They were spoken liturgies that day, akin to our Wednesday evening liturgies. So, at the end of the Holy Communion, I was ready to recess down the center aisle as usual, but Maria intercepted me and said that it just didn't seem right to worship on a Sunday morning without singing a hymn. So, our little congregation gathered there in the center aisle and sang *Beautiful Savior*. We had nice voices: Chris Schulze, Douglas Puffert, Davida Goldman, and Maria.

Afterwards, when we were chatting at the end of the liturgy, Maria told me that recently she had been remembering her childhood days and the dinner hour pattern in her home. Dinner hour was family hour. If the phone rang, the family ignored it. This was their regular time to be with one another. Maria tells us about it:]

I remember suppertime as a child around the family table. After the meal the table was cleared, but we always stayed seated. It was prayer time. One of the kids would read a text from the Bible. (We could choose.) My Dad (Peter) would then explain what the text meant. My Mom (Rachel) would say a prayer. She'd also recite Psalm 121 for us, her very favorite Psalm. We'd end with the Lord's Prayer and sing a hymn or two together.

I thank my Mom and Dad for making God such a big part of my life. He was then and he still is today.

Thank You, Panda Pals!

The week of August 22nd through 26th our church was invaded by a pack of fun-loving Panda Bears. Our Vacation Bible School program, “PandaMania: Where God is Wild About You!” took place that week. We had 19 pandas ranging in age from 3½ to 10½, and a slew of happy panda helpers.

Special thanks to panda teachers Karen Bazik and Lara Simone-Bhasin who took turns bringing Bible stories to life for us each day. We started out right at the very beginning with Creation, then joined Elijah as he confronted the prophets of Baal, sat inside the whale with Jonah, met with Peter (played by Chris Schulze) and rejoiced with Hannah over her new son (played by Lara’s infant son, Matt).

Our thanks, too, to panda music teacher, Paul Sigrist, who taught us a fun song each morning.

A double thank you to panda crafts’ teacher, Jean Fischer, for guiding us in not only making all sorts of fun crafts to take home, but also in serving as our photographer for the week as well. (Be sure to check out Immanuel’s website.)

Panda bears can get mighty hungry and Barbara Chomko saw to it that our forest was stocked with fun snacks each

day. We would also like to thank our Junior Panda Crew Leaders, Kirsten Kibler, Emma O’Carroll and Kieran O’Carroll. Emma and Kirsten, with Ann Chomko’s help, assembled and served the daily snacks. Kieran helped set up the outdoor games for the children to play.

Warmest thanks to Pastor Fryer for winding up each afternoon with a talk about what we had all learned that morning.

Lots of panda helpers were roaming the panda forest to help out too. Thank you to Ann Chomko, Louisa Laverde, Lori Nitsche-Hansen, Priscilla O’Carroll, Karen Rombey and Yanette and Victor Steinberg.

It takes a lot of behind-the-scenes work to create a bamboo forest and get ready for such a big event like PandaMania, so a big thank you goes out to all those who helped out the weekend before our VBS began: Karen Bazik, Lara Simone- Bhasin, Luis Cartagena, Barbara Chomko, our friend Cindy, Kathy Jolowicz, Louisa Laverde, Chris Schulze, Ana Stapaj, Maria Van Der Merwe and Kathryn Weidmann.

It really was an amazing, fun-filled week for everyone.

Guest Preacher Dr. Deva Raju Patta

Sunday, October 23, 2011

Thanks to the leadership of our member Jay Rao, Dr. Patta will take the sacred desk at Immanuel for the Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost, October 23rd.

Dr. Patta has been visiting the Northwestern Minnesota Synod, ELCA as a delegate of the Andhra Evangelical Lutheran Church of Southern India. Our member Jay has known Dr. Patta since boyhood days. Jay is very pleased that Dr. Patta will preach here at Immanuel during the New York phase of his trip.

Andhra Pradesh is one of the twenty-eight states of India, situated on the southeastern coast of India. The Andhra Evangelical Lutheran Church (AELC) there goes back a long ways, to the missionary work of the old United Lutheran Church in America in 1842.

Dr. Patta is a member on the Executive Council of AELC and also acts as the Chairman of the Board of College Education, AELC. He is a popular Bible Study Leader and evangelist and has visited more than twelve countries including Canada, Norway and Israel participating in many workshops and consultations.

Christianity has an ancient heritage in India. By tradition, the Apostle Thomas, who beheld the wounds of the resurrected Jesus and exclaimed “My Lord and my God,” was the first one to bring the Christian faith to India. In modern times, the great English missionary Lesslie Newbigen served in India and reflected upon the Gospel and its intersection with the world’s many cultures.

I am eager to hear Dr. Patta, to hear his testimony to Jesus, and to be preached to by a brother Christian from a distant land and church.

Pastor Fryer

Midtown Concerts

Midtown Concerts has returned to Immanuel Lutheran Church for the 2011-2012 season. The October schedule follows and concerts will continue each Wednesday through the end of May. As always, the concerts are completely free and last approximately 35 minutes. Please tell your friends! Information on Midtown Concerts online is available at www.midtownconcerts.org.

OCTOBER 5

Gavin Black, harpsichord

Dietrich Buxtehude – Variations on *La Capricciosa*

OCTOBER 12

Ensemble Breve

Sonatas for flute and recorder with harpsichord by Telemann

OCTOBER 19

Pascal Valois

Works by Carpentras, Magnien and Sor on 19th-century guitar

OCTOBER 26

Ellen Delahanty/Daphna Mor Duo

Italian baroque music for voice, recorder and harpsichord

Upcoming ARTEK Concerts

ARTEK will present three Thursday evening chamber music concerts at Immanuel Lutheran Church this season. The three concerts will all feature Director Gwendolyn Toth's newly restored antique fortepiano from the late 18th century. The schedule is:

✦ Thursday, November 3, 2011, at 8 p.m.

Gwendolyn Toth (fortepiano) & Dongsok Shin (fortepiano) play Mozart and Clementi sonatas for four-hands.

✦ Thursday, January 26, 2012, at 8 p.m.

Gwendolyn Toth (fortepiano), Anssi Karttunen (cello, Finland), Peter Becker (bass-baritone), and Michael Brown (tenor) play Beethoven and Schubert sonatas and lieder.

✦ Thursday, April 19, 2012, at 8 p.m.

Gwendolyn Toth (fortepiano), Enrico Gatti (violin, Italy) and Laura Heimes (soprano) play Mozart and Haydn sonatas and songs.

Although tickets for these concerts normally cost \$25, ARTEK has set aside 100 free tickets for each concert for members of Immanuel Lutheran Church. These tickets are available right now from Parish Secretary Karen Rombey in the church office for pickup by members, or directly from Music Director Gwendolyn Toth after services on Sundays.

A New Member

John Paul Stevenson



John Stevenson and son, John, at a Yankees game

John joined Immanuel via Affirmation of Baptism on the Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 25, 2011.

He is the Executive Chef of the Rose Group, which owns own and operates private event spaces in New York. He has been featured in many media outlets such as *The New York Daily News*, *New York Sun*, *New York Times*, and *Crain's New York*. John received the *Crain's New York* "40 under 40 Award" and the NYPD Foundation's Commanding Officer for a Night Honoree.

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John is also actively involved with PENCIL, a non-profit organization that partners business leaders with inner city schools to assist principals in building new programs for the student body.

John currently resides in New York City with his wife, Fatima, and three children - Nadia, John and Nora - where they enjoy spending time together exploring the nearby parks and restaurants. John also enjoys all types of motorsport racing, photography and worship here at Immanuel.